



**To:** *PSR 2025 Graduates*  
**From:** *Office of Community Life*  
**Re:** *COMMENCEMENT*  
**Theme:** *Rise & Amplify: Claiming Our Season of Visibility and Voice*  
**Speaker:** *Dr. Patrick B. Reyes*

## **IMPORTANT DATES!**

**Please mark your calendars**

Graduates' Chapel & Luncheon	Tuesday, May 13 at 11:00 AM*
Pre-Commencement Rehearsal	Thursday, May 22nd from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Commencement Day Rehearsal	Sunday, May 25 <sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM
Commencement Ceremony	Sunday, May 25th at 4:00 PM

### **COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL & CEREMONY LOCATION:**

First Presbyterian Church Berkeley – 2407 Dana Street – Berkeley, CA 94704

<https://www.fpcberkeley.org/>

*(\*All times listed are Pacific Daylight Time)*

## **GRADUATION SCHEDULE on May 25th, 2025**

<b>2:00</b>	Students who are participating in the leadership of commencement worship should arrive (choir, readers, dancers, etc.) – allow time to park
<b>2:15</b>	Students, Faculty and Staff should be present & ready to robe in the Sanctuary
<b>2:30</b>	Rehearsal Begins (for graduating seniors, faculty, trustees, & pulpit guests)
<b>3:00</b>	Class Photo is taken; Doors open to Elderly/Disabled Guests
<b>3:15</b>	Doors open to Priority Guests
<b>3:30</b>	Doors open to General Seating

<b>4:00</b>	Commencement Ceremony begins
<b>6:00</b>	President's Reception follows immediately after graduation in FPCB Plaza
<b>7:00</b>	Clean-up

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT IS THE GRADUATION FEE AND HOW IS IT COLLECTED?

PSR assesses a \$250 Graduation Fee for all graduate level students which helps offset some of the costs of producing and hosting the Commencement Celebration.

### WHERE IS THE GRADUATION TAKING PLACE?

The commencement will take place on Sunday May 25th, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley (FPCB or First Pres) which is located at 2407 Dana Street in Berkeley.

**Where can my guests and I get directions to the location of the ceremony and reception?** The location of the church and information about parking can be found here -

<https://www.fpcberkeley.org/new-here/>

### CEREMONY SEATING

**The sanctuary of FPCB seats 750 (500 on the main floor and 250 in the balcony)** Each graduate is granted **10 priority seating tickets**, which is common practice for academic institutions in the U.S. The ten priority seating tickets will be available via an Eventbrite link where you can register your special guests. If you are in need of more tickets, please let us know and we'll make sure you can register them in advance. There will be a special registration check-in table at the door for all Priority Guests (including elder and disabled attendees).

### GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS vs INVITATIONS

We do not have graduation “invitations”—that is, an invitation made especially for each of your individual guests. Instead, we have generic graduation announcement cards that indicate the graduation date, time, location, speaker and theme. **PSR provides 10 commencement announcements to each graduate** There will also be digital announcements available through the website on the Commencement Page



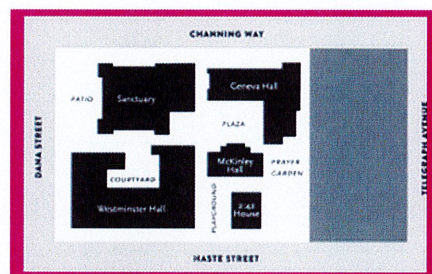
## **LODGING FOR OUT OF TOWN GUESTS**

Please see the attached PDF document with hotel/lodging options for the City of Berkeley.

## **PARKING**

### **First Pres Garage**

The First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley Parking Garage is available to all guests for a fee. Enter via the Channing Way driveway for parking. There is an elevator to the main level where all Commencement activities will take place.



**Telegraph Channing Garage** - Located on Channing Way across from First Presbyterian, this garage is available from 8 am until 10 pm and has a PAID parking fee included. Also, **The UC Ellsworth Parking Lot** on Channing between Dana and Ellsworth Streets offers PAID parking.



## ORDERING GOWNS & HOODS

PSR **DOES NOT** provide any gowns or hoods. It is the sole responsibility of the student to be ready to participate in commencement with their regalia. (We encourage you to ask family and friends to gift your academic gown and hood). Please bring your regalia during the rehearsal and graduation day. **Please see below how to order your gowns and hoods, and please note that there is generally a 6-week time frame for production and shipping of your regalia.**



Deluxe Masters Graduation Gown -  
Academic Regalia



Classic Doctoral Graduation Gown -  
Academic Regalia



PSR uses BLACK GOWNS as you will note in the photographs above – ***we do not use graduation caps.***

TO ORDER THE CORRECT **HOOD** for PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION MASTERS or DOCTORAL LEVEL, go to the Herff-Jones website and specify Pacific School of Religion.

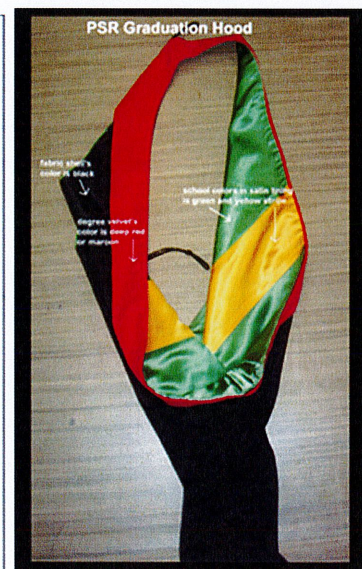
Also, when selecting a hood band color, select "Theology" (which is **SCARLET**).

**Black Masters' Hood: \$158.00**

**Black Doctoral Hood: \$198.00**

**Expedited Manufacturing (3 weeks) - +\$25.00**

<https://academicregalia.herffjones.com/category/detail/categoryID/28>



## AMAZON ACADEMIC REGALIA

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Graduation+regalia&crd=363ZG3ABXJ2UV&srefix=graduation+regalia%2Caps%2C146&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Graduation+regalia&crd=363ZG3ABXJ2UV&srefix=graduation+regalia%2Caps%2C146&ref=nb_sb_noss_1)

## GRADUATION ATTIRE

<https://www.graduationattire.com/collections/bachelors-gowns>

<https://www.graduationattire.com/collections/masters-gowns>

<https://www.graduationattire.com/collections/doctoral-gowns>

## GRADUATION CAP AND GOWN

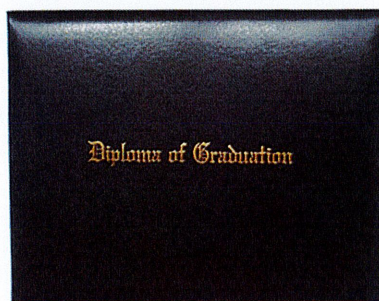
<https://www.graduationcapandgown.com/collections/bachelors-gowns?page=2>

<https://www.graduationcapandgown.com/products/classic-masters-graduation-gown>

<https://www.graduationcapandgown.com/collections/doctoral-gowns>

**SACRED STITCHES** - If you are looking for a custom clergy robe, you can check out “Sacred Stitches.” Their website is: <https://sacredstitches.com/>.

Please take note also of their page for seminarians. They also have a selection of “Quick Ship” robes. Their vestments make wonderful graduation gifts (*hint-hint to family and friends*). <https://sacredstitches.com/seminary/>



## DIPLOMA

On stage during the commencement ceremony, you will receive a leather diploma cover, but not your official diploma. You will receive your official diploma of your academic degree from the Registrar via snail mail in mid-July.

*If you have any additional questions,  
please reach out to Rev. Mz. Ann at 510-849-8257,  
and once again, **CONGRATULATIONS!***